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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2015

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/77, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011, 67/71 of 3 December 2012 and 68/63 of 5 December 2013,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission",[2] Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution 61/98, which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, in so far as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3]

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, notes that the Commission has not submitted

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/69/42).
[2] Resolution 44/119 C, annex.
[3] Resolution S-10/2.

any substantive recommendations to the General Assembly in the course of the past 15 years, and thus encourages the revitalization of the work of the Commission in its upcoming triennial cycle;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for a focused and results-oriented discussion on the items on the agenda of the Disarmament Commission;

4. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982 and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[2]

5. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission intensify consultations with a view to reaching agreement on the items on its agenda, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/492, before the start of its substantive session of 2015, providing for focused deliberations and keeping in mind the proposal to include a third agenda item;

6. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (*e*) of resolution 61/98, upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

7. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2015, namely from 6 to 24 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2014 session,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

9. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2015 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/69/27).

for the substantive session of 2015 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

II. Organization and work of the substantive session of 2015

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2015 at United Nations Headquarters at its 343rd meeting, on 19 January 2015 (see A/CN.10/PV.343). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its substantive session of 2015 in accordance with the "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" adopted by the General Assembly (Assembly resolution 44/119 C, annex) and in the light of Assembly resolution 69/77. The Commission also took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the position of Chair among the geographic regions. The Commission elected the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations, Fodé Seck, as Chair for its 2015 session. The Commission considered the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2015.

3. At its 347th meeting, on 7 April 2015, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2015 (A/CN.10/L.74/Rev.1), on the understanding that consultations will continue on ways and means to implement General Assembly resolution 69/77. The Commission also decided that the agenda for its substantive session of 2015 should serve for the period 2015-2017. The agenda reads as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
5. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.
6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.
7. Other business.

4. The Commission took note of its schedule of meetings for the session (A/CN.10/2015/CRP.1/Rev.1 and 2) at its 349th and 351st meetings, according to which three meetings were to be allocated to a general exchange of views.

5. The Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 24 April 2015. In the course of its session, the Commission held 10 plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.344-353). The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for

General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Commission, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs represented the substantive secretariat.

6. During the 2015 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair:
Fodé Seck (Senegal)

Vice-Chairs:
Representatives of Chile, Iraq, Italy, Portugal and Serbia

Rapporteur:
Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria)

7. At its 348th meeting, on 7 April 2015, the Commission elected Kairat Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan) as Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4, and Bouchaib El Oumni (Morocco) as Chair of Working Group II, on agenda item 5.

8. At its 348th to 350th meetings on 7 and 8 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.348-350). Representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Austria, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Egypt, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

9. At its 344th meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

10. The Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4. Working Group I held nine meetings, from 9 to 22 April.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5. Working Group II held eight meetings, from 13 to 22 April.

12. In accordance with the past practice of the Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

13. The Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the documentation submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission for its substantive session of 2015 (A/CN.10/209).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

14. In the course of the Commission's work, the following documents, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted: conference room papers submitted by the Chairs of Working Groups I and II (A/CN.10/2015/WG.I/CRP.1 and A/CN.10/2015/WG.II/CRP.1).

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

15. At its 352nd meeting, on 24 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted, ad referendum, the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. No recommendations were put forward by the Commission. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

16. At its 353rd meeting, the Commission adopted, by consensus, the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to be presented to the General Assembly at its seventieth session. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the secretariat.

17. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 347th meeting, on 7 April 2015, the Disarmament Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2015 (A/CN.10/L.74/Rev.1) and decided to allocate to Working Group I agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". The Commission also decided that the agenda should serve for the period 2015-2017. At its 348th meeting, on 7 April, the Commission elected Kairat Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan) as Chair of Working Group I.

2. Working Group I held nine meetings, from 9 to 22 April 2015. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group held extensive, though not exhaustive, discussions on agenda item 4.

4. At the 1st meeting, on 9 April 2015, the Chair circulated an indicative list of issues and sub-issues that was discussed at the 1st and 2nd meetings.

5. At the 3rd and 4th meetings, on 14 April 2015, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's non-paper dated 11 April 2015.

6. At the 5th and 6th meetings, on 16 April 2015, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's revised non-paper dated 15 April 2015.

7. At the 7th and 8th meetings, on 20 April 2015, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's revised non-paper dated 17 April 2015.

8. At the 9th meeting, on 22 April 2015, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's revised non-paper dated 21 April 2015.

9. Following discussions by the Group, the Chair decided to circulate, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation, a revised Chair's non-paper (A.CN.10/2015/WG.I/CRP.1), which, in his view, could form a basis for further discussion at future substantive sessions of the Commission. The Working Group encouraged the Chair to continue, during the intersessional period, informal consultations on the agenda item.

10. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

11. Also at its 9th meeting, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4. It also decided to make the non-paper (A/CN.10/2015/WG.I/CRP.1) available to the Commission at its substantive session of 2016.

18. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 347th meeting, on 7 April 2015, the Disarmament Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2015 (A/CN.10/L.74/Rev.1) and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons". The Commission also decided that the agenda should serve for the period 2015-2017. At its 348th meeting, also on 7 April, the Commission elected Bouchaib El Oumni (Morocco) as Chair of Working Group II.

2. Working Group II held eight meetings, from 13 to 22 April 2015. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as secretariat of the Working Group and the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 13 April 2015, the Working Group took up the previous Chair's conference room paper (A/CN.10/2014/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.3) and completed a reading of the text.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 April, the Working Group began a second reading of the conference room paper and held an exchange of views on the "Principles" section of the document.

5. At the 3rd meeting, on 15 April, the Chair circulated a non-paper, dated 15 April 2015, based on the previous Chair's conference room paper and incorporating proposals made by delegations. In order to facilitate discussions, the non-paper was presented under the Chair's own responsibility, without

prejudice to the position of any delegation. At the same meeting, the Working Group began a preliminary discussion on the non-paper.

6. At its 4th meeting, on 15 April, the Working Group held discussions on the "Principles" section of the non-paper and continued its reading of the Chair's non-paper dated 15 April 2015, during which delegations made written and oral proposals.

7. At its 5th meeting, on 17 April, the Working Group continued its reading of the Chair's non-paper dated 15 April 2015. A presentation was then made by the Office for Disarmament Affairs on confidence-building measures.

8. At the 6th meeting, on 21 April, the Chair introduced a conference room paper (A/CN.10/2015/WG.II/CRP.1). The paper was presented under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. At the same meeting, the Working Group began a first reading of the paper.

9. At its 7th meeting, on 21 April, the Working Group completed its first reading of the Chair's conference room paper (A/CN.10/2015/WG.II/CRP.1).

10. At its 8th meeting, on 22 April, the Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

11. At the same meeting, the Working Group encouraged the Chair to continue, during the intersessional period, informal consultations on the agenda item allocated to the Group.

12. Also at its 8th meeting, on 22 April, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5. It also decided to make the conference room paper (A/CN.10/2015/WG.II/CRP.1) available to the Commission at its substantive session of 2016.

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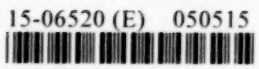

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